

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJ: LOS: MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 6

1. SUMMARY: MAIN COMMITTEE DEBATED ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACT OR CONSULTATION GROUPS. COSPONSORS INTRODUCED ARTICLES ON LANDLOCKED STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. CHAIRMAN AMERASINGHE OPENED MEETING WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BUREAU HAD DECIDED TO ESTABLISH CONSULTATION GROUP UNDER HIS CHAIRMANSHIP TO CARRY OUT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN ORDER TO NARROW POLITICAL DIFFERENCES ON TWO ISSUES: (1) THE ECONOMIC ZONE (ESTABLISHMENT, NATURE, RIGHTS, ETC.) AND (2) TERRITORIAL SEA AND STRAITS. HE COMMENTED THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO AVOID FISHERIES ISSUE AS THIS WOULD BE DEALT WITH UNDER ECONOMIC ZONE. HE ANNOUNCED THAT CONSULTATION GROUP WOULD MEET EVERY MORNING TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. HE ASKED THAT REGIONAL GROUPS NOMINATE 3 TO 5 REPS. HE SAID THERE WAS NO NEED TO ADHERE TO STRICT PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. THESE REMARKS LED TO DEBATE ON TERMS OF REFERENCE, PURPOSE AND COMPOSITION OF CONSULTATION GROUP. AT END OF DEBATE, AMERASINGHE STATED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT IT WAS NOT INTENTION THAT CONSULTATIONS GROUP SHOULD BASE

WORK ON SPECIFIC TEXTS OR THAT GROUPS SHOULD UNDERTAKE ACTUAL DRAFTING. LATTER, HE SAID, WOULD BE BEYOND ITS MANDATE. PURPOSE WOULD BE TO DISCUSS IDEAS AND POSITIONS SO AS TO NARROW POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WHICH WOULD FACILITATE REDUCING NUMBER OF TEXTS. CONSULTATION GROUP ITSELF WOULD NOT DRAFT ALTERNATIVE TESTS OR TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON SINGLE TEXT.

3. A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS RESERVED THEIR POSITON ON CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL. UK REP ASKED FOR TIME FOR REGIONAL GROUPS TO CONSULT. TURKISH REP AGREED TO IDEA ON CONSULTATION BUT MADE CLEAR IT WOULD NOTBE BOUND BY ANY AGREEMENTS REACHED IN CONSULTATION GROUPS. AUSTRIA SUPPORTED IDEA OF CONSULTATIONS ON ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS BUT QUESTIONED VALUE ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. ON LATTER, HE PROPOSED THAT MEETINGS AMONG CO-SPONSORS OF TEXTS MIGHT BE MORE PROFITABLE THAN USE OF TRADTIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONSULTATIONS.

4. US REP SAID LINE BETWEEN SUBSTANCE AND PROCEDURE IS BEING DRAWN TOO FINE. HE NOTED THAT US HAD AGREED IT WAS NECESSARY TO SEEK WAYS TO EXPEDITE COMMITTEE'S WORK AND SAID ONE OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS FACING COMMITTEE IS TO REDUCE ALTERNATIVE TEXTS. THE TWO AREAS CHAIRMAN AMERASINGHE HAD IDENTIFIED WERE ONES IN WHICH MANY PROPOSALS HAD BEEN MADE AND US REP SAID HE AGREED CONSULTATION GROUP COULD CONSIDER THESE TWO QUESTIONS. FRANCE WELCOMED SUGGESTION BUT INDICATED THAT IF CONSULTATIONS WERE TO INVOLVE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES HE QUESTIONED USEFULNESS OF USING REGIONAL CONSULTATION. HE ALSO SAID THAT LIMIT OF 3 TO 6 REPS FROM EACH GROUP WOULD NOT ADEQUATELY REFLECT VARIETY OF VIEWS WITHIN GROUPS.

5. CHILE SUPPORTED CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL WITHOUT QUALIFICATION. PERU AGREED IN PRINCIPLE SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITHIN REGIONAL GROUPS TO ASSURE THAT REGIONAL GROUP INTERESTS ARE PROTECTED

. SINGAPORE SAID ITS VIEWS ON CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER CONTACT GROUPS WERE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL VIEWS. NETHERLANDS REP SAID IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO GET PROPER REPRESENTATION WITH A LIMIT OF 3 TO 6 REPS FROM EACH GROUP. AUSTRALIAN REP SUGGESTED THAT INTEREST GROUPS RATHER THAN REGIONAL GROUPS MIGHT BE BETTER BASIS FOR THESE CONSULTATIONS BUT HE PROPOSED THAT CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL BE TRIED AS AN EXPERIMENT.

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USSR REP SUGGESTED CONSULTATIONS BE BASED ON COMBINATION OF REGIONAL AND INTEREST GROUPS, WHERE CO-AUTHORS OF SPECIFIC TEXTS WOULD BE INCLUDED. HE URGED THAT WHATEVER METHOD WAS ADOPTED, ROLE OF EXISTING COMMITTEES AND WORKING OR INFORMAL GROUPS SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED.

6. KENYAN REP RESERVED FINAL POSITION UNTIL AFTER IT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH AFRICAN GROUP. HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD

BE NECESSARY TO HAVE REGIONAL GROUPS AGREE ON COMMON GROUND BEFORE FULL CONSULTATION. CANADIAN REP EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT BASIS ON WHICH CONTACT GROUPS WOULD OPERATE. HE STATED COMBINATION OF REGIONAL AND INTEREST GROUPS MIGHT MAKE CONSULTATIONS LARGE AND UNWIDELY. MEXICAN REP URGED CHAIRMAN TO ORGANIZE CONSULTATIONS AMONG SPOKESMEN FOR VARIOUS TRENDS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING CONSOLIDATED TEXTS AMONG DELEGATIONS WITH SIMILAR VIEWS. HE ADDED THAT SUBCOMMITTEE II EXERCISE WAS FUTILE AS COMPARATIVE DOCUMENT IS NOT ONLY USELESS BUT AN OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS. HE STRONGLY URGED THAT A DIFFERENT APPROACH BE TRIED. JAPAN ASKED FOR TIME TO CONSULT BUT URGED FLEXIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO REPRESENTATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF CONSULTATION GROUPS. NIGERIAN REP SAID THAT CONSULTATIONS BASED ON REGIONAL APPROACH WOULD WORK WELL FOR ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS BUT NOT ON SUBSTANCE. HE SUGGESTED COMBINATION OF DIFFERENT METHODS. COLOMBIA SUPPORTED CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL SAYING SUCH CONSULTATIONS WOULD INVOLVE POLITICAL NEGOTIATION IN DRAFTING AND SHOULD LAY GROUNDWORK FOR POLITICAL "PACKAGE." BRAZILIAN REP RESERVED HIS POSITION ON PROPOSAL, POINTING OUT THAT THERE REMAIN CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES WITHIN REGIONAL GROUPS.

7. CHAIRMAN CONCLUDED PROCEDURAL DISCUSSION WITH REQUEST THAT CHAIRMEN OF REGIONAL GROUPS MEET WITH HIM ON THE MORNING OF 7 AUGUST TO DISCUSS REPRESENTATION.

8. NEPAL INTRODUCED DOCUMENT CONTAINING DRAFT ARTICLES RELATING TO LANDLOCKED STATES CO-SPONSORED BY AFGHANISTAN, BOLIVIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, MALI, NEPAL AND ZAMBIA. ALL CO-SPONSORS EXCEPT HUNGARY AND MALI MADE STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLES, MOST STRESSING THAT THIS WAS CODIFICATION OR RESTATEMENT OF

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